



# Accessible Instructional Materials

## Parent Fact Sheet

Last Updated March 19, 2009

### **NIMAS: National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard**

The 2004 reauthorization of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) included a requirement that students who are blind, visually impaired and students who are print disabled receive their textbooks and core related instructional materials in specialized formats in a timely manner (at the same time as their non-disabled peers). Specialized formats are: Braille, large print, audio or digital text. The responsibility of providing these materials in an accessible format in a timely manner rests upon the school district. These textbooks and core related instructional materials are provided to your student at no additional cost to you. Once a student is determined NIMAS eligible, the IEP Team will follow the NIMAS guidelines developed by the state of Iowa.

Your child is NIMAS eligible if they have any of the following characteristics:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Blind: Individual whose visual acuity, as determined by competent authority (AEA and school personnel), is 20/200 or less in the better eye with corrective lenses, or whose widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Visually Impaired: Individual whose visual disability, with correction and regardless of optical measurement, is certified by competent authority (AEA and school personnel) as preventing the reading of standard printed material.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Physically Disabled: Individual certified by a competent authority (AEA and school personnel) as unable to read or unable to use standard printed material as a result of physical limitations.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Reading Disabled: Individual certified by competent authority as having a reading disability resulting from organic dysfunction and of sufficient severity to prevent their reading printed material in a normal manner. Competent authority must be a doctor of medicine or osteopathy who may consult with practitioners in other disciplines.

### **Resources**

True AIM: <http://trueaim.iowa.gov/>

Iowa Department for the Blind: <http://www.blind.state.ia.us>

Center for Applied Special Technology: <http://www.CAST.org>

Office for Civil Rights: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/rights/reg/ocr/index.html>

Bookshare – <http://www.bookshare.org>

Contact: Steve Maurer  
Iowa Department of Education - Grimes State Office Building  
400 E. 14th St. - Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146  
Phone: 515-281-3576 - FAX: 515-242-6019 - E-Mail: [steve.maurer@iowa.gov](mailto:steve.maurer@iowa.gov)